

Attorney Docket No.
D2A1180-1

10/805,592
Customer ID: 42671

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the two attached replacement drawing sheets for the corresponding original drawing sheets. The new drawing sheets include changes to Figures 1 and 2.

In Figure 1, the legend has been amended to include the designation "(Prior Art)".

In Figure 2, the legend has been amended to include the designation "(Prior Art)".

Attachments:

2 replacement sheets

2 annotated sheets showing changes

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REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Examiner's comments, including the Office Action mailed August 4, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Summary of rejections and amendments

The Examiner previously rejected claims 1-7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103. The Applicant has canceled claims 1-7 and 11, amended claim 8 and added claims 16-22. Claims 8-10 and 12-22 are therefore pending in the application.

Objection to the drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings and states that Figures 1 and 2 should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art." The Applicant has amended Figures 1 and 2 as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner's objection to the drawings is therefore believed to have been overcome.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,294,954 to Melanson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,118,997 to El-Hamamsy, and/or U.S. Patent No. 6,064,259 to Takina and/or U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0036533 by Mazda. The Applicant has canceled claims 1-7 and 11, so these rejections are moot.

Allowable subject matter

The Examiner allowed claims 12-15. Additionally, the Examiner indicated that claims 8-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. The Applicant has amended these claims to be in independent form, including all the limitations of the base and intervening claims, and therefore believes that the claims are allowable.

The Applicant has added new claims 16-22, all of which depend from claim 8, which is allowable. Because these new claims depend from an allowable claim, they are allowable for the same reasons.

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Conclusion

The Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all claims pending in the application. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

If any extensions of time are necessary to prevent the above referenced application from becoming abandoned, the Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. If any fees are inadvertently omitted, or if any additional fees are required, or if any amounts have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-3085 of the Law Offices of Mark L. Berrier.

Respectfully submitted,

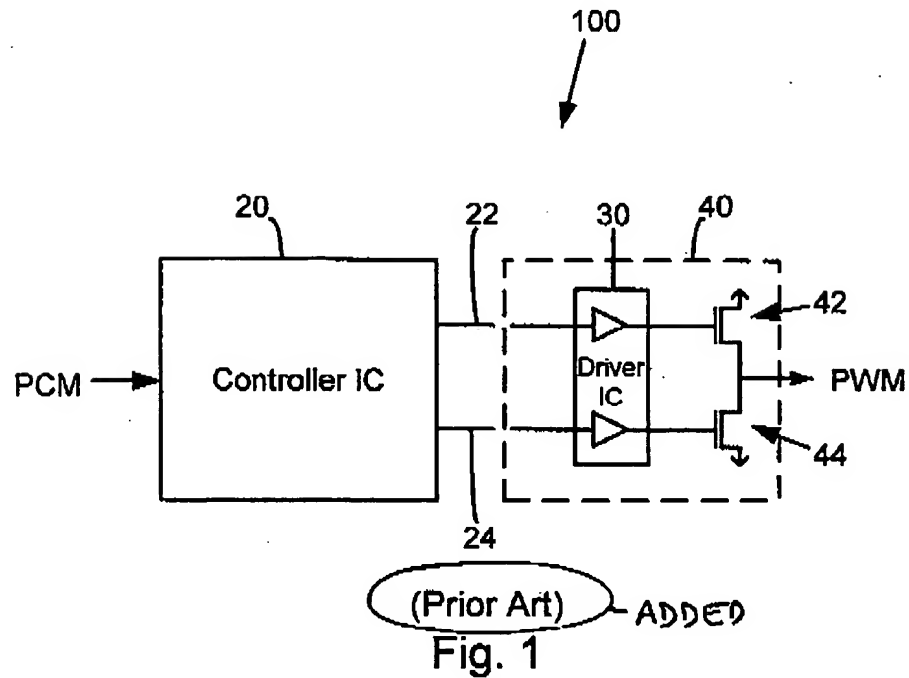


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D2A1180-1 (Ser. No. 10/805,592)
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (1 of 2)



D2A1180-1 (Ser. No. 10/805,592)
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (2 of 2)

